

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

**AGENDA**



Thursday, August 31, 2006

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**Item(s) from Council  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**ITEM No. 34**

**Subject:** Approve a resolution directing the City Auditor, with input from the City Manager as well as public safety departments and public safety associations, and upon approval of the Audit & Finance Committee of the City Council, to solicit, negotiate, and execute a contract with consultants having expertise in public safety operations and administration for the purpose of conducting an independent assessment of public safety in the City of Austin. (Scope of work and implementation is contingent upon approved Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget.)

**Sponsor:** Council Member Brewster McCracken

**Co-Sponsor1:** Council Member Lee Leffingwell

**Co-Sponsor2:** Council Member Mike Martinez

**Additional Backup Material**

(click to open)

- Fiscal Impact**
- Resolution**

**For More Information:** Rossana Barrios

**ITEM**



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Toby Futrell, City Manager  
**FROM:** Greg Canally, Budget Officer  
**DATE:** August 31, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** Public Safety Consultants

Item on the August 31, 2006 Council Agenda is to approve a resolution to direct the City Auditor, with input from the City Manager as well as public safety departments and public safety associations, and upon approval of the Audit and Finance Committee of the City Council, to solicit, negotiate, and execute a contract with consultants having expertise in public safety operations and administration for the purpose of conducting an independent assessment of public safety in the City of Austin. Given that the proposed scope of work for the assessment is fairly broad at this time, we estimate the cost would be between \$200,000 and \$500,000. There is now no identified source of funding for the assessment – it would have to be provided in the approved Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20060831-**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The Council directs the City Auditor, with input from the City Manager as well as public safety departments and public safety associations, and upon approval of the Council Audit and Finance Subcommittee, to solicit, negotiate and execute a contract with consultants having expertise in public safety operations and administration to conduct an independent assessment of public safety in the City of Austin. In addition to negotiating and executing this contract, the City Auditor will provide oversight of the consultants' work and quality assurance for the consultants' outputs and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

This assessment should focus on the economy and efficiency of public safety operations; management structure and organization of public safety; and community indicators and trends with respect to public safety outcomes. This assessment must include:

1. Review of budgetary practices, overtime practices, cost trends, staffing levels, deployment strategies, and administrative support systems;
2. Development of explicit best practice criteria and performance levels against which to benchmark or compare Austin's public safety operations;
3. Evaluation of relevance and reliability of public safety performance measures;

4. Identification of cost drivers for public safety and barriers and opportunities to reducing costs of public safety;
5. Identification and estimation of costs for optional service delivery approaches (e.g. overtime vs. permanent staffing); and
6. Development of explicit best practice criteria and performance levels against which to benchmark or compare Austin's Police Oversight programs/functions.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2006

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk

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*Shirley A. Gentry*